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MODERN TIMES

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500 at Hartford

Welfare MOMS Storm Capitol

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

About 500 Welfare MOMS from 7 area cities congregated at the Capitol Building in Hartford last Thursday, Oct. 14. They entered the building and surrounded Meskill's door singing 'We shall not be moved', and shouting 'We want Meskill!'. It was a large and enthusiastic group of very angry people. But they weren't there just to make noise. They wanted to talk to Gov. Meskill or Welfare Commissioner White about the proposed cutbacks in welfare allowances. This new proposal, if passed, would cut their welfare checks up to 21%.

Though they were notified beforehand that the MOMS were coming, neither Meskill nor White were there to receive them. So the group was herded into the conference room, and promised that someone would be in to talk to them soon. The MOMS situated themselves in the conference room and waited ... and waited ... and waited. They sang songs while they waited. Some of them spoke while they waited. They spoke of their anger towards what they referred to as the 'Tyrannus Trio - Nixon, Meskill and White,' and their anger at the unfairness and total absurdity of the planned cutbacks.

One woman from New Haven used her own situation to demonstrate how absurd the cuts would be. She has one son and lives in an apartment which costs $150.00 a month. If the planned cuts go through she will be getting $169.00 a month from Welfare. That would leave her $19.00 each month for food for her and her child, clothing, gas, electric, telephone, and other basic living expenses.

The biggest part of the day was spent listening to speakers. Some wandered about the building and demanded that someone come in and talk to them – if it couldn't be Meskill or White, then someone else to represent

See MOMS page 2.

Union Gains Support; Yale Goes on Defensive

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The drive for union recognition of the Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee (YNFAC) is reaching its climax. YNFAC union members are lining up their membership for the recognition election November 17. The Yale administration has gone on the defensive, mailing letters and holding meetings with all its employees to attack the union. And other trade unions in the New Haven area are beginning to come to YNFAC's support.

An YNFAC victory at Yale could have far reaching effects for all other workers in the New Haven area. A 2500 member union will increase union membership in the area considerably (about 7% increase in one shot) and therefore increase union power. YNFAC could also offer an example and encouragement to other white collar workers who are at present under-organized.

The existence of a second union at Yale would give support to Local 35 which represents 1200 maintainence and dining hall workers. Their bitter strike against Yale last year might have been helped a lot if the rest of Yale had been unionized.

Support from Local 35

Vincent Sirabella, business manager of Local 35, has sent a letter to all Local 35 members urging them to support YN FAC in the November 17 election. The letter reads: "Many of you have friends, relatives and acquaintances among those who will be eligible to vote in this secret ballot election. You can help by explaining the benefits of a union to these people. You know first-hand, and you can do a lot to counter the massive, expensive anti-union propaganda Yale is passing out."

In another part of the Yale community, Yale-New Haven Hospital, workers are also trying to organize a union. An YNFAC victory on November 17 would give the hospital workers encouragement and support in their drive.

The Concerned Hospital Workers are sending a letter to all hospital workers who have signed up for their union, Local 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Nursing Home Employees. The letter asks them to support YNFAC by telling their "friends and relatives who work at Yale to join, support and vote for YNFAC."

Ronald O'Brien, President of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, and Justin Manning, International Representative of the Office and Professional Employees International Union have also given support statements to YNFAC. O'Brien told **Modern Times**, "What with the imposition of the viciously anti-labor wage-price freeze, it is encouraging to see organizations such as YNFAC pressing forward in their struggle. . .Their victory would serve further to put the phoney liberals gathered around Kingman Brewster at Yale University on notice that they will have to deal with the Yale workers, like it or not."

Yale on the Defensive

In recent weeks Yale has stepped up its anti-union tactics. It has distributed to its supervisory staff a lengthy document

See YALE page 8.

ENGINEER LAYOFF PAGE 3

Ye Olde Pink Slippe

ALDERMANIC RACE PAGE 4

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"Flat Grant" Means Long Hard Winter

by Linda Garson
Modern Times Staff

At a meeting of over 2000 Welfare MOMS on October 14, member Marione Rudnick summed up the feelings of many Welfare MOMS by saying, "I don't want enough money for luxuries or a bank account. I just want enough money to live—not exist—but live normally. We won't even be able to exist on the flat grant."

Sharp criticism of Welfare commissioner White's bare bones program mounts as the starting date, November 1, approaches. Without the approval of the State Legislature, White is determined to institute flat grant payments to welfare recipients.

The flat grant is a set monthly sum with no provisions for so-called extraordinary needs. Welfare clients are angered by White's methods of avoiding the control of elected officials and then setting public hearings only after the program begins. But more than that, they are dismayed at the desperate financial straits which await them after November 1.

Legal Aid Attorney, William Clendenon analyzed the flat grant. He explained that the net effect of the flat grant will be to cut 30-40% off present welfare standards, so that most families will receive $100-150 less a month than they are receiving now. Present welfare standards have not been revised since 1968 and are below the poverty line in New Haven.

Necessities Denied

The New Haven Register claimed that welfare cuts will only amount to 15% of what clients are currently receiving. This statement is misleading because it does not take into account supplemental grants which were available in the past when a client could prove need. These grants included money for household necessities, such as beds, kitchen sets (no living room furniture is provided), window shades, cooking utensils, winter clothing, and appliances such as stoves and refrigerators.

Money for these necessities will now be denied. Commissioner White has announced that welfare recipients are free to buy whatever they want with their checks. What he does not mention is that the flat grant provides barely enough money for most rents and food.

Under the flat grant no family on welfare can have a stove or refrigerator provided by the State although they may move to an apartment that does not provide this. It means that families on Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) will not be able to buy oil to heat their houses or winter coats to keep their children warm.

Senator Ciarlone explained that the flat grant was proposed, but not passed by the Connecticut General Assembly this year. Commissioner White is implementing it without legislative approval.

Genocide, Not Economy

In an effort to stall off the flat grant, Clendenon urged all welfare recipients to go to legal aid to demand the right to fair hearings. Although welfare cuts are due to take effect November 1, the date set for public hearing in New Haven is November 17 (200 Orange Street at 7:30 p.m.). One woman in the audience responded to this announcement, "By November 17 our children are going to be starving." Another added, "November 17 my oil tank will be empty!".

Commissioner White offers support for the flat grant by stating that according to the size of the budget set by the legislature, his only recourse was to impose welfare cuts. Yet he never approached the legislature for more money.

Peter Wolff of the Social Welfare Workers' Union emphasized, "It's not a matter of economy. Not when you have a $23 million Coliseum out there. That's not economy. That's genocide."

Work with Modern Times

People from sixteen to sixty are working together on Modern Times to make it a true community newspaper for New Haven.

Volunteering their time, they do the typing, the pasteup, take photographs and develop them, and convert the pictures to half-tones suitable for reproduction.

Very few of the people working on the paper ever had previous experience in producing a newspaper. Together, we all learned, and are ready to teach others. A number of students from the Wilbur Cross High School in the Community may soon join our staff to learn about newspaper-making.

Every other week, the "production" process begins with an editorial session on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at our offices, and many people join the editors to type, copyread, edit, and set up paging. The process continues Fridays and then Mondays through Wednesdays with the paper coming out on Thursday after being printed in another Connecticut city.

On the same evening that the paper is printed, the Modern Times staff all have a cooperative dinner at one of the member's homes, and we all discuss the work of the paper, articles to come later, and other matters that we all feel are important to the continuing growth and improvement of Modern Times.

We invite those readers who would like to join Modern Times to phone 562-2510 and let us know when you would like to start. Glad to have you!

MOMS Storm Capitol

M-T photo by Patti Miller

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them. This was the third time they had come up there, and they hadn't yet seen anyone. They were disgusted and angry.

At a news conference, Matilda Gibbs, the president of the New Haven Welfare MOMS, strongly stated her position. She said that if the cutbacks go through they would "hurt the children most" and "would probably result in a rise in crime rates." She argued, "If we don't have the money to buy the food, what's the next step?" Determined to see the governor, she said that she would "stay till they take me out of here" and "if we have to come back, we'll come back!"

When at 3:30 no one had yet come to listen to the MOMs they decided to make a little more noise. Forming a long line and clasping hands they marched throughout the building chanting and singing. They did a fine job of disrupting any order that might have prevailed otherwise. Finally, at about 4:30 some legislators from the education committee consented to come in and listen to them. But they served no immediate purpose.

After a whole day of waiting the MOMS finally got the chance to ask their questions – but they got no answers. How could legislators from the education committee answer their questions? They couldn't, and they didn't. This fact made the MOMS even more angry. The only things the legislators could have done was pacify them. But they were not about to be fooled again. They wanted some answers, and preferably from Meskill and White. It was decided that they would stay on until they did get the answers they were after. Several demonstrators pitched tents on the capitol lawn and stayed for an entire week.

Refuse to Attend Hearing

The legislators promised to hold a hearing on the following Wednesday, Oct. 20. Commissioner White was called to appear at the hearing, but refused, using the executive privilege, according to which no legislator has the right to subpoena an executive. The hearing went well. It was jammed, loud and orderly. The purpose of the hearing was so that legislators could gather information and testimony directly from the people, in order to pass favorable legislation.

It looks good for the MOMS. There's hope that an injunction will be passed to stop the proposal for the cutbacks. Though it took such extreme measures on the part of the MOMS, the proposal may be stopped. But no one will know for sure, until the court hearing on Oct. 27, whether the injunction will be passed or not.

City Groups Hit Meskill On Welfare

There are several groups in the New Haven community which have expressed their disagreement with Meskill's proposed welfare cut backs.

The Human Relations Council of Greater New Haven feels that the cuts are "inhumane." The council pointed out that many recipients are facing as much as a 45% cut in their welfare allotment.

"The governor has callously refused to listen to the people in closing his mind to all public opinion contrary to his own views," the council stated. "Despite the governor's stubborn and unreasonable stance, we urge all concerned citizens to contact their legislators and to write the governor as well."

Double Injustice to the Poor

The council feels that it is a "double injustice to the poor to set a flat rate for welfare grants that underestimates the actual needs of the recipients and then issue an across-the-board cut based on that rate." It feels that Meskill's decision is "counter to the value of human decency and must be deplored by all citizens of the state."

In an open letter to the governor, Dr. Marvin Pope, Chairman of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church, stated that the board *"feels strongly that the present anticipated welfare cuts are inhumane and un-*christian."

As a suggestion to the admimstration, he proposed that budget cuts should not be in the area of services such as those provided by the Departments of Welfare, Mental Health, Corrections and Education, but rather economy measures should be taken in such fields as highways, maintenance of government administrative buildings, parks and grounds, etc.

Protest Cuts

Welfare Workers Picket

by Teri Klein
Modern Times Staff

In a growing New Haven action by welfare workers, welfare recipients, members of social welfare agencies, trade unionists and concerned citizens picket the State welfare office every noon. Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees (CUWE) members decided to picket and give up their lunch hour as part of a rising protest against State Welfare Commissioner White's proposed budget cuts.

Early in the day, welfare recipients have been picketing the Bassett Street office.

"This is the first time I've ever demonstrated," said Mrs. Madeline Lynch of East Haven, "but something has to be done. I have five children and I've been dropped $123 a month in welfare payments. The choice I face next month for the kids is either freeze or starve. I can't possibly pay the rent and take care of heat and food too. We were barely making it before."

Cuts 'Inhuman'

At lunch time the mothers are joined by welfare agency case workers. "Nobody knows the situation better than the social workers," said Mrs. Lynch, "they get all the calls." Peter Gaito an ADC worker said when the cuts first came through he couldn't believe the inhumanity of it. He has been flooded with calls from families, some cut as much as 40 - 50%.

Leslie Church, another case worker with ADC, explained further that with the new separation of services in the agency and the hiring freeze, her case load has gone over the maximum. Separation of services means case workers will just hand out money. They will no longer be involved with the human element--the problems families face trying to make do with too small a budget.

Two workers from Family Services, another agency, said they had come to picket during their lunch hour as fellow human beings. Commissioner White has singled out ADC(Aid to Dependent Children) and done all the cutting there.

They explained, "If you have to talk in terms of dollars and cents" one of the picketers remarked, "this move is false economy in terms of humanity. How can you even begin to work with people's problems when they are faced with not having a roof over their heads or food – right now the concern is sheer survival. The families that can least afford it-those with children are bing hit the hardest. It's true little kids can't vote but----." but they can starve.

'Axe-Day' At United Aircraft

by Bill Monaco
unemployed engineer

On October 15, 1971 at 3:00 p.m., I received my notice that two weeks from this date, my services at United Aircraft were no longer needed. The events leading to the lay-off at United Aircraft may differ from person to person but the atmosphere was the same everywhere.

I had worked as an engineer at the Aircraft for almost two years. Until October 15, I had felt reasonably secure in my work. So secure that I bought a new car recently. Now it is quite possible that I may have to sell the car just to pay for it.

The worst part of any lay - off is the rumors. Usually they over - exaggerate the amount of people involved (20% is always a good number). Sometimes I think the management starts the rumors so that a small lay - off might go unnoticed. The rumors on October 15 were tremendous; "the axe will find hundreds today."

Pay-day at the Aircraft comes twice-a-month for salaried people and every week for non-salaried. For non-salaried employees, the familiar expression "Axe Wednesday" can be heard in every conversation on the production floor. Only two days notice is given to production workers, so people given their notice on Wednesday are through on Friday. Salaried employees who believe they are above such expressions (they actually believe they are "professionals") are given a two-week notice. The employment office on Chapel Street holds no distinction for either.

Merits Don't Matter

The events of October 1 5 can only be described by what happened to me. On this day all eyes were glued to the supervisor's corner office where news of the chosen ones would be forthcoming. For some reason I personally felt much more relaxed on this lay-off day. The rating period was just over and I was given a "merit raise" rating. At 2:30 p.m., the "axe man" arrived with the list. He perhaps is the most feared man in the building, yet he has nothing to do with selections. He walked into the corner office with the list and one by one a parade of group supervisors were called into the office.

I walked to the lab to finish some testing I was doing when my immediate supervisor came in and said the group leader wanted to see me. At that moment I knew what was happening. My name was on the list.

The scene in the conference room I will never forget. He was practically in tears trying to explain all the options I had after the next two weeks. He constantly told me it was not a reflection on my abilities and he couldn't understand how it happened. Somehow he hoped I'd forgive him. Like the "axe man" he too was blameless.

After Ten Years

Everyone spent that afternoon trying to find out who was laid-off. Stories of previous lay-offs were numerous, *one was a dandy. It seems that one foreman received his ten-year pin in the morning and his notice in the afternoon. My only consolation was that I didn't have to worry any more about a closed door in the corner office.*

I have no idea of the total number laid-off at United Aircraft's divisions. But it was tremendous. Some people at Pratt & Whitney were given one hours notice plus two-weeks severance pay. Apparently United Aircraft hopes to eliminate use of the telephone service by people looking for new jobs. This has to be the ultimate "kick in the pants" for these people.

I guess most people will blame the lay-off on these liberals who cut defense and SST spendings, yet how wrong they are. The real problem was an industry grown too big and too dependent on defense contracts to provide jobs for people. It's the men who are responsible for each lay-off passing the responsibility of telling people to those below them. An industry that big could never feel for the individual.

Unionists Join Welfare Protest

The New Haven Concerned Trade Unionists, an active rank and file group of workers, is lending its support to the case workers of the Connecticut State Welfare Department. The case workers, members of the Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees, have been utilizing their lunch periods from 12 to 1 p.m. daily to picket their office in protest of Gov. Meskill's welfare cuts. The Concerned Trade Unionists, representing teachers, hospital workers, machinists, assemblers, and other trades, joined them in picketing on Thursday and Friday (Oct. 20 & 21).

A spokesman for the group, Joseph Greenberg, said, "It is inconceivable that in this age of rising prices and rents that poor people subsisting at the lowest standards of living should be forced to accept greater poverty and deeper degradation."

M-T photo by Gene Frankel

Threat Fails At Hospital

By Gary Benenson
Concerned Hospital Workers

For a long time, Yale-New Haven Hospital has conducted a campaign against union organization, but until this past summer they had avoided retaliating directly against union activists. Last June 22 and 23 all of that changed. On the 22nd, Mrs. Eileen Toles of Dietary was suspended for a week, and on the 23rd, I was given a written warning by my supervisor.

It might have been easier to just let these things happen, but we felt that the success of the organizing drive, as well as our own jobs at the hospital, were at stake. So with the support of some co-workers and the help of Local 1199, we took the matter before the Connecticut State Labor Relations Board.

As a result of hearings held August 24 and September 13, and a concession made beforehand, the hospital removed the written warning from my record, and *gave Mrs. Toles two and a half days back pay plus a transfer within the hospital.*

Most important, we proved to ourselves and other workers that the Yale-New Haven administration does not have absolute power over its workers. They can be challenged, fought in an organized way, and made to give in.

All of this without our even having a recognized union (but with the invaluable help of the Local 1199 organization). Imagine the power we would have if all the workers at Yale-New Haven were united and fighting together under a single, strong union!

Brotherhood Tradition Among IAM Locals

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

When the members of Local 2037 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) were recently "furloughed" from their jobs at High Standard's gun factory in Hamden, they found that they had lots of friends.

Local 609 (Victory Lodge) of the IAM came to their assistance. "They bent over backwards to help. They really rolled out the carpet," said Louis Fappiano, President of Local 2037, in a telephone interview with **Modern Times**

"We used their offices. They made their mimeo machine available, their telephone, whatever we needed. We certainly appreciate what they've done for us," he said.

This continues a tradition of aid among IAM locals. When Local 609 was in the midst of their bitter 15-week strike at Olin several years ago, the members of Local 2037 got up a canned food drive and walked the picket lines with their union brothers.

"Each local tries to help the other. After all, we were on strike for seven weeks ourselves in 1959. And since then we've helped out when Hendricks and Geometric Tool were on strike," recalled Fappiano.

The machinist are back on the job at High Standard now, although one worker commented that by the time the third week came around without a pay check, the furloughs had begun to hurt.

"The biggest concern was pension benefits," said President Fappiano. "As long as the company informed us it was a temporary furlough, our CMS and other benefits were OK. We've got people who have been working for 35 years. With unemployment the way it is, a guy with 35 years experience without a pension, what has he got?"

Fappiano had praise for the local plant manager, John Tye, for keeping the union informed as soon as he heard anything from the parent company in California. The parent company, Liesure Group, Inc., shut down their plants under "heavy operating losses."

LABOR NOTES

Bus Drivers & Mechanics Authorize Strike

Bus drivers and mechanics who work for the Connecticut Company in New Haven, Stamford, and Hartford voted October 22 to go on strike if necessary to win a new contract. The previous contract of their union, the Amalgamated Transit Union, expired on September 30. The bus workers become the first union in the state to threaten a strike since the wage-price freeze went into effect on August 15.

Local 1199 Wins Heritage House

The National Labor Relations Board has certified Local 1199 Hospital Workers Union as bargaining agent for the employees at Heritage House Convalescent Home.

A union representation election was held in January, 1971, but challenges to some of the votes were not decided until August. The Home's owners were found guilty of committing unfair labor practices, and ordered to pay a woman who was fired for union activity approximately $1600 in back wages. Heritage House was also required to post a public notice by the NLRB which admits committing unfair labor practices and promises not to in the future.

Building Trades Picket Long Wharf Site

A building under development in the Long Wharf Project was picketed last month by Building Trades unions. They were protesting the refusal of the contractor to hire union help. Almost all major redevelopment and city construction uses union labor, but the contracor would not agree to go union. Labor spokesmen felt that it was impossible to put enough pressure on the contractor to force him to hire union men. The building is between Gant Shirt and Blakeslee and both of these corporations reportedly own shares of the building. Blakeslee, one of the largest contractors in the state, is a subsidiary of Westinghouse.

Aldermen Candidates Blast Guida Policies

by Liz Farrell
Modern Times Staff

On November 2 New Haven voters elect their representatives to the Board of Aldermen. Many aldermanic candidates feel that the people of New Haven are shortchanged by City Hall. Some have been working for a long time to build a different kind of city government responsive to people's needs. Others are on the ballot for the first time as reform candidates.

Here **Modern Times** interviews a few of these men and women. An interview with Gail Coleman, now waging a court battle to remain on the ballot, has already been printed (**Modern Times**, October 1-14).

Joe Bartlett

"Impeach the Mayor!" says Joe Bartlett when asked what he thinks the Board of Aldermen should do. As 2nd ward incumbent , he beat the Democratic party regulars' attempt to drop him from the slate. "Under the present city charter," he continues, "the Mayor has enormous power. He can kill any section of any bill passed by the Aldermen. He did it on the Coliseum." When the Board of Aldermen voted a controversial $3.5 million more, they put limits on future outlays for the Coliseum. The Mayor vetoed these limits. He explains how even the aldermen's power to pass ordinances can be usurped by the mayor. "One of my first acts as alderman was to sponsor improved street lighting as a crime deterrent. Guida assigns lights on the basis of votes, not crime. When new lights were installed in this ward, Guida had John Murphy, his administrative assistant, coerce the person who requested them to write a letter to the **Register** thanking the Mayor for street lights."

Bartlett has been a major aldermanic foe of Route 34. "The only people who want Route 34 don't know anything about it --- the Chamber of Commerce, the **New Haven Register**, the Mayor. They are guilty of 'simple think' -- anything that's built is a good thing."

Bartlett now supports Capra "to put good government ahead of patronage."

Diane Burrows

Diane Burrows decided to run for the Board of Aldermen because 2 years ago, when Capra carried her ward by 150 votes, the Republican alderman was elected by a margin of 3. She defeated him in the only Republican primary in this election to win a place on the Capra ticket. Her presence in the 7th ward is nothing new. "I've lived here all my life." She describes the 7th ward as sharply divided along economic lines: in one section, next to the Oak Street Connector, rise the city's luxury apartment towers'; in the other, around Lee High School, stand Church Street South and the Hill area. There is a sizeable Spanish-speaking community in her ward. (She speaks Spanish as well.) She opposes the extension of Route 34 and gives desperately -needed housing top priority.

Just as housing shows the divisions *in her ward, it poses common problems with landlords. She knows Puerto* Ricans with eviction cases, and towers' tenants who face $40/month rent increases when the wage-price freeze ends.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, she'll continue to work in the 7th ward.

Phyllis Hanfling

Phyllis Hanfling, 25th ward "independent on Capra's row," hopes for an alliance among progressive aldermen to counter the "regressives." She wants specific improvements in her ward where "services are so bad, people are ready to give up." Even basic problems of street safety are ignored downtown.

"Issues must be brought to the people." She feels the **Register** blocks this. She believes your right to know extends to closed executive sessions of the Police and Fire Commissions. "The public part lasts about 5 minutes!"

Her ideas on education grew out of the years she taught school. "Teacher training should be upgraded for inner city schools so teachers aren't just trained for the suburbs."

She opposes the emphasis on more roads, especially Route 34. Her views on housing call for suburbs and city *to work together to provide it. She* would arrange hearings in neighborhoods where low income housing is proposed to clear up misconceptions.

See ALDERMEN page 7

GI Project Off Ground

Cindy Ballanger in front of Springfield Serviceman's Center.
(M-T photo by John Bancroft)

by Tom Cannon
Sergeant, USAF

"The Military noose around our necks gets tighter and tighter every day." This is one GI's view at Westover Air Force Base. It reflects the feelings of many airmen. This feeling sparked the growth of the Westover Action Project.

The project was born at an antiwar demonstration at the gates of Westover Air Force Base on Armed Forces Day last May. It was established by GI's and civilians to give active-duty men and women a way of dealing with problems they encounter in the military.

Westover Action Project is based at OFF THE RUNWAY, Westover's GI center in Holyoke, Mass. The project extends in many directions.

Legal counseling has a prime role in the planned programs. It offers GI's insight into their rights and legal opportunities to protect themselves.

There's Al's drug program aiming at both active-duty people and veterans. We work closely with "Room to Move," a drug program at the University of Massachusetts where we link up with thousands of veterans.

On the lighter side, there's a fast growing successful program with free rock concerts, jam sessions, improvisational theater and movies. A speakers program is in the planning stage and will ultimately offer any group or organization active-duty GI's to speak on all facets of the Air Force and military service. Speakers have already talked at high schools, colleges and a Quaker organization. Our newspaper, the 99th Bummer, named after the 99th Bomb Wing on base, comes out monthly and is our main channel of information. Articles are written by members of the staff or mailed in by anyone who wishes to contribute. The paper deals primarily with issues which directly affect airmen at Westover.

The project has no formal organization. All actions and activities are discussed and debated in open forums. The idea is to bring active airmen together.

The project has taken no final political or social stand so far. Open discussions and rap sessions offer everyone a a chance to hash out anything from personal problems to political commitments. Our objective is to bring people together to help them find themselves, and then they'll take it from there.

English Economist Discusses Problems of Cuba's Conversion

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

Before 1959, poverty, ignorance, and disease were the common lot of the Cuban majority who lived in the countryside. How has the Cuban Revolution changed their lives and what does the future hold for them?

Not many English-speaking people have had the opportunity to make a serious study attempting to answer these questions. Brian Pollitt, a young English economist who has spent five years in Cuba, is one of the few who has.

In the third of a series of public lectures sponsored by the American Independent Movement (AIM), he detailed some of the problems which Cuba has faced in its transition from capitalism to socialism.

Pollitt visited Cuba for the first time in January, 1963, at which time he planned a series of social, economic, and political studies of eleven areas in the Cuban countryside. From September, 1963 to June, 1968, he lived in Cuba, traveling widely and collecting data.

Two years after he began the study, the Cuban government became interested in his project and asked him to train a team of university students in this type of research. He last visited Cuba in the spring of 1969.

Planned Economy

Pollitt described inevitable problems which accompany the changeover from a capitalist organization of labor to a socialist planned economy. Under the old conditions, a wage-earner lucky enough to find work often worked seven days a week, eight or ten hours a day as long as the work lasted. Mostly workers found employment in the sugar industry which is Cuba's main income.

There is a decline in productivity when he is freed from this pressure and works only a five day week at a steady job with shorter hours. Yet this is preferable in human terms to the pre-revolutionary situation.

Similarly, peasants in the old days had little problem consuming too much food: there was little to consume. Now that agricultural production has increased people in the countryside are eating more and this sometimes creates scarcities in the towns.

These are the new problems which have come about as the Cuban Revolution has freed people from fear of unemployment and starvation.

Study Over Time

Pollitt's study will not be published for several years "to ensure that I can say that this is what it really *was* like. Lots of European intellectuals who fly in and out of Havana for a few weeks immediately publish their impressions of the unsolved problems and mistakes the Cubans are facing. They seem to 'use up' revolutions, dashing from one place to another looking for the perfect one."

Pollitt plans a trip to Chile to teach and carry on research on land reform and hopes to return to Cuba in 1976 for a study of his field-areas "ten years later."

Nov. 6 Rally Climax of Fall Peace Actions

by Leslie Craine
New Haven Peace Action Coalition

Saturday, November 6 is the climax of the Fall peace drive and a further extension of the anti-war struggle. It is a day of regional demonstrations all over the country. New Haveners will join a rally in New York City.

In the New Haven area, leaflets urging participation in the demonstration are being distributed at colleges, high schools, factory gates, downtown shopping areas and theaters, in neighborhoods and at churches. Strikes, teach-ins, and rallies are being planned for those who won't be able to get away from New Haven.

The New Haven Peace Action Coalition (NHPAC) has reserved buses to take demonstrators to day-long activities in New York. It has already been announced that there will be a special bus for teachers who will attend.

Buses will leave at 7 am from Temple Street in front of Center Church on the Green. Tickets are $5.00 round trip for coach bus and $3.00 for school bus. Tickets and information are available at the NHPAC office, 53 Wall St., New Haven, 777-4265.

In New York, three joint meetings have been held by the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC), the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ), the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) and other anti-war groups hoping to build the largest anti-war rally New York City has ever seen.

The demands of the day will focus on the relationship between the crisis within our country and U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Part of one call to the fall action reads:

"Resistance to the war is continually rising as millions of workers lose their jobs and Vietnam veterans can find none. The wage freeze proves that the Nixon Administration is trying to force the nation's workers to bear the economic burden of the war. The fight to end the war is an essential part of the fight to check inflation, to achieve full employment and guarantee an adequate income for every American.

"The nation's depressed economy starves schools, hospitals and welfare programs, and places the heaviest burden on minorities, especially Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano youth. The cost of the war precludes adequate housing and a decent standard of living for all.

"Yet the destruction goes on: 50,000 GI's dead, 300,000 wounded. 1,500,000 Indochinese killed. 8,000,000 homeless.

"Saturation bombing continues at a rate unprecedented in history. One-fifth of Vietnam lies desolate from chemical defoliants causing sharp increases in still births and genetic deformities."

To follow-up on the fall activities, NPAC is organizing a national anti-war convention in Washington D.C., December 3-5. The PCPJ is being invited to attend. For more information call the New Haven PAC office, 777-4265.

Bill Morico speaks for Concerned Trade Unionists at October 13 antiwar rally in New Haven. A series of labor-supported antiwar demonstrations will take place again on November 6. New York City is the Northeastern focus. (M-T photo by A. Kay.)

City Police Sued on Narcotics Rap

by Henry Lowendorf
Modern Times Staff

The New Haven Police Department has been charged with planting narcotics on innocent people who were then arrested in order to gain favorable publicity for the department. Lawsuits have been brought to Federal Court by Attorney John Williams on behalf of three Hill residents who had been arrested for possesion of cocaine. The cocaine was later revealed to be harmless quinine.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are four detectives, Dennis Ryan, Andrew Consiglio, Francis Cacioli, and Clarence Willoughby, and officers of the department, including Police Chief Biagio DiLieto. All were alleged to have known and approved of the illegal planting procedures.

Recently, the lawsuit charges, it has become the practice of Detectives Ryan, Consiglio, and Cacioli "to assault and batter informers who do not provide information regarding a sufficient number of persons to satisfy" the detectives. The lawsuit states that two of the informers were Eddie and Freddie Dennison, two heroin addicts, who were paid by Detectives Ryan, Consiglio, Cacioli, and Willoughby in money and heroin.

According to the suit, on May 9, 1971, Ryan, Cacioli, and Consiglio advised the Dennisons that "they wished to gain favorable publicity for themselves and the New Haven Police Department by making a dramatic arrest." They then ordered the Dennisons "to rob at gunpoint the Cumberland Farms Store located at Howard Avenue and Lamberton Street."

The suit goes on that the detectives "drove Eddie and Freddie Dennison to the store, gave them guns, and sent them inside." After the robbery was completed they arrested the Dennisons, drove them to the Gambling and Narcotics Division headquarters on Court Street and "there in a private room, permitted Eddie and Freddie Dennison to inject heroin into their bodies." The three detectives then arranged for the Dennisons to be released from custody on low bonds, states the lawsuit. As a consequence of the foregoing, Ryan, Cacioli, and Consiglio received a public commendation from Police Chief DiLieto.

The suit alleges further that, during the summer of 1971, Ryan, Cacioli, and Consiglio brutally beat the Dennisons, and "threatened worse consequences if the performance of the two informers did not improve." It was after these series of events that the quinine was planted and nine residents of the Hill arrested on possession of cocaine.

In a related legal action, DiLieto, Ryan, and Cacioli are being sued by Weldon Clemons for falsely charging him with assault with intent to kill, possession of heroin with intent to sell, carrying a revolver without a permit and resisting arrest. According to the lawsuit, to the contrary, Ryan and Cacioli ransacked Clemons' apartment while he was not at home; they then searched for and found him sitting quietly in a restaurant, "seized him and fastened handcuffs to his wrists. They threw him to the floor and began kicking him and beating him with blackjacks." Later, in their car, "several times they placed an unloaded pistol at the plaintiff's head and pulled the trigger."

Clemons is presently on trial in Superior Court for the charges stated above. The charges against Police Department officials won't be brought up, according to Attorney Williams, for probably another two to three years.

From Sing Sing to Whalley Avenue, New Haven Jail is No Exception

by Michael Golden
Law Student

There are many rumors floating around about the New Haven Jail. Unfortunately, most of them are true. New Haven does have a second hand jail. When New York State closed Sing Sing, it sold some of Sing-Sing to New Haven. The building was put on a barge and floated to New Haven. It is now the New Haven Jail on Whalley Avenue.

The facilities at the jail are inadequate, at best. About 400 men are kept in the jail. There are two or three men in each cell. Most of these people have a mattress, but some sleep on the floor. There are showers at the jail, but not many. Prisoners do not regularly use toilets, they use a bucket in the cell. It has been said that you don't really know a man until you shit in the same bucket with him and then sleep with the bucket.

There isn't much to do when you are locked up. This is especially true in the New Haven Jail. Some prisoners work, but you must be convicted to work. One place prisoners work is in the kitchen. Both the kitchen and the food are awful. Grease is the outstanding characteristic of both. Fresh fruits and vegtables are rare.

Other prisoners take high school equivalency courses, but you must be convicted to take the courses. High school graduates may not take courses.

What do you do if you don't work or go to classes? You sit around. You may sit in your cell and read, but the lighting isbad, and, if you have not been convicted, you may not use the library. You may sit in the common area at the end of the cell block. There is a television there. It plays loudly. You may play cards. You may do drugs. Drugs are available in the jail.

Thus, it should be clear, life in the New Haven Jail is unbearable. The cell blocks are damp, dark, overcrowded, and unsanitary. The prisoners are poorly fed and bored. There is no effort to rehabilitate.

Wholives in the New Haven Jail?

Most of the prisoners are poor and black. Many of them are heroin users. More than half of them are pre-trial detainees. This means they have not been convicted of a crime. They are in jail because they do not have money and property to post a bond. People who have not been convicted are presumed to be innocent in this country. Are these people who are presumed to be innocent treated differently from those who have been convicted? They are! They may not work, take high school courses, or get books from the library.

All of the prisoners are denied other rights. Their mail is censored. Only relatives may visit. A girl friend or boy friend may not visit. "Subversive" literature may not be read. They rarely see the light of day or get any exercise.

How do the prisoners react to the jail? They hate it. Many prisoners would rather do 18 months in the state prison than 12 months in the jail. Jail prisoners are not political. Most of them are not *"hardened criminals."* They know they are being manipulated by the State, but they do not know what will happen to them. They spend most of their time wondering who will win the game, not why they have to play the game. The game metaphor is not an accident. Many jail prisoners view life as a game. The name of the game is "Cops and Ghetto People." The cops know it is a game, and they play by the rules rather than by the Constitution.

On one level the prisoners hate the cops, but on the dominant level, prisoners realize that cops have to do a job. Prisoners and cops can frequently be heard at court arguing back and forth about who has violated the rules of the game, but, at the end of the day, a cop goes home to his friends or family, while the prisoner goes back to New Haven's second hand jail.

Editorial

Aldermanic Elections

"New Haven's only 4-way stop signs–now at Livingston and Cold Spring!" reads the leaflet of one alderman's accomplishments for a north city ward. Stop signs, street lights, and snow plows are the issues around which most aldermanic candidates base their campaigns. Taxes, education, housing, parks, and environment are secondary. The emphasis placed on strictly neighborhood (however worthy) problems rather than those more crucial to the whole city is a reflection of the lack of importance we place on the Board of Aldermen.

Unpaid, with no staff, no time off from regular jobs, the aldermen are doing a favor to the city, or whichever power block they vote with. While the mayor has full-time salaried agencies to do his research, the aldermen have only their free time, and possible volunteer labor. Yet the aldermen should be much nearer, in a very personal way, to their constituency, each of which is smaller than the mayor's. The aldermen should represent working people, young people, the unemployed, the underemployed, Spanish speaking and blacks in their desires to belong to a decent, humane society. The aldermen should have the highest priority because they are our closest representatives.

The possibilities for the Board of Aldermen are enormous. After all, former Boards okayed all of New Haven's redevelopment program. They could have voted no.

As an example, countless numbers of people are strongly opposed to the extension of the Oak Street Connector-Route 34 as a 12 lane superhighway, which will affect a large neighborhood and ultimately the whole city. The highway's support within the city comes mainly from the Chamber of Commerce. Yet a majority of the present Board of Aldermen support the highway expansion.

We must support aldermen who want to work with their constituents, we must continue to build local groups responsive to citizens–with housing, jobs, education as our immediate goals–in order to form the groundwork for an ongoing political organization, from which we can begin to control our lives and the life of our city.

Support YNFAC

If the 2500 clerical and technical employees at Yale vote yes for a union in their upcoming election, it will be a powerful boost to the labor movement in this area.

Yale has been waging an intense campaign of innuendo and distortion against the Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee, (YNFAC), which is seeking recognition. Yale's union-busting techniques are not new to the Yale community. The university administration went all-out to try and bust Local 35 last spring. But trade union solidarity all over the city helped Local 35 face Yale and win in the showdown.

Now as the November 17 election date for YNFAC nears, several unions have issued formal support statements. Local 35, the New Haven Federation of Teachers and the Concerned Hospital Workers at Yale-New Haven Hospital have all publically stated that they stand solidly behind the union drive. We agree that the more area unions that follow suit and bring pressure to bear, the harder it will be for Yale to carry out its union-busting tactics.

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MODERN TIMES is a non-profit volunteer labor publication of the American Independent Movembent

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commerical papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.
We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.
The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent helath care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Jan Baecker, Elizabeth Bennett, Marshall Bergen, Virginia Blaisdell, Matt Borenstein, Arlene Butler, Greg Butler, Katrina Clark, Ellen Comisso, Arlyce Currie, Joan Dimow, Joe Dimow, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Suzy Duling, Steve Ellner, Art Fleischner, Linda Garson, Sam Goodwin, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Bill Hersey, Shoshana Hersey, Larry Hogan, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Alan Kay, Henry Lowendorf, Pat Lowendorf, Scott McIntosh, Alan McKnight, Art Mazer, Patti Miller, John Moldenhauer, Kathy Moldenhauer, John Moulder, Betty Murray, Stephanie Ney, Steve Ney, Laurie Nussdorfer, Barbara O'Connell, Craig O'Connell, Peter O'Connell, April Reiss, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Greg Smith, June Taylor, Dan Vapnek, Virginia Walbot, Dick Wieland, Karen Wolff, Rick Wolff.

Labor Could Pack A Political Punch

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Imagine a story like this. The High Standard Corporation of Hamden recently laid off several hundred workers. Suppose the Mayor of Hamden had a law on the books which gave him the right to issue an ultimatum to High Standard. The ultimatum might read: "Since the economic well-being of hundreds of families depends on the jobs at High Standard, it is against the community interest to allow these layoffs. Therefore, we order the Corporation to serve the community's needs by immediately rehiring all workers. If the corporation refuses, the law provides that the workers shall return to their jobs and shall cooperatively own and run High Standard in the interests of the general welfare of the people of Hamden."

It is no doubt the sad truth that no Mayor around here is about to pass such a law or issue such an ultimatum. But we should not forget that there could be laws and Mayors who really represented the interests of working people.

The Issue is Politics

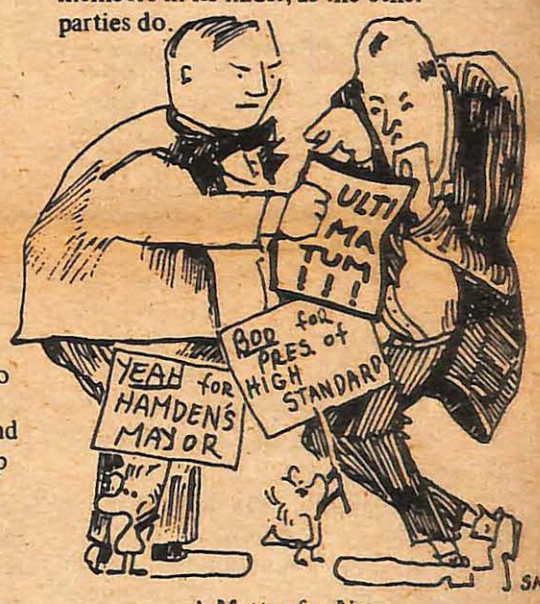
The issue is politics, or, to put it *another way, how can workers organize themselves to have the political punch* needed to pass such laws and elect such Mayors. Many thoughtful people have argued over the years that the best that working people can hope for is to have some influence on the two major political parties. The idea is to join one (it's usually the Democrats) and to pressure the party leadership to keep labor's interests in mind when laws are written and candidates chosen. In America's history, this strategy for labor has achieved some results: laws providing for unemployment compensation, social security, minimum wages, and job safety, to name only a few.

Yet there are some thoughtful people who propose a different strategy for labor. They begin by agreeing that it was labor pressure that won each and every law that benefits working people. But they don't think that the best way to apply that pressure is by joining one of the big parties. Instead, they argue in favor of establishing an independent political party of, by, and for labor.

A Labor Party

A Workers' Party or Labor Party would mainly try to enlist wage-earners as members. The Party's platform would describe the changes in government policies and laws which the Party is committed to bring about. The supporters of this idea argue that the existence and strength of such a Party would by itself make the other parties scramble to pledge themselves in favor of pro-worker laws. Those parties would fear the loss of working people's votes to the Labor Party. However – and this is the main argument of Labor Party supporters – if the two major parties don't care about working people's votes or try to fool us with empty promises, working people will have somewhere else to go. We won't any longer be forced always to choose between the slightly better of two parties that are basically unresponsive to workers' needs.

The other argument for the Labor Party emphasizes that unlike the other parties, it won't include the rich businessmen as members. Therefore, the Labor Party will be able to speak and act strongly for working people's interests. It won't always be making harmful concessions to the businessmen members in its midst, as the other parties do.



A Matter for Now

The right political strategy for labor may not seem to be a very urgent matter for working people already overstrained with the tasks of just keeping their families and their unions together. That's certainly an understandable feeling. Yet the hard truth of the situation is that only united political action by working people can ever relieve the day-to-day strain which all working people feel. So it is not idle chatter for us all to do some hard thinking about the best political strategy for labor.

should the dead vote ?

by Larry Hogan
Modern Times Staff

A preliminary study of the official registered voter list in the 26th Ward indicates that someone is protecting the voting rights of that most neglected minority – the dead. It also reveals that a large number of former residents will seemingly retain their voting rights even though they may have moved away 15 years ago.

Each year at election time, official ward lists (termed "preliminary") are posted throughout neighborhood stores. These lists in addition to supplementary new voter lists are used as the criterion of a voter's credentials when he or she goes to the polls. A check of Elizabeth St. by three long-time residents shows that at least 32 percent (28 out of 87) of officially eligible voters have either moved or died.

Despite the fact that 23 Elizabeth St. was torn down over 14 years ago to extend St. John the Baptist schoolyard, two people are listed at that address. A similar check of Basset and Pond Sts. confirms our suspicion that Elizabeth St. is not unique.

These findings are not only accurate but conservative. The study indicates only those persons we personally knew to have moved or died. A more extensive study involving a thorough canvassing would undoubtedly reveal higher percentages of "absent" voters.

When the registrar's office was asked about the list by one puzzled resident, she was told that it is the responsibility of those people no longer eligible to remove their names from the list.

It has often been alleged that people have cast ballots by using the names of former or deceased residents. It will be interesting to see if this happens in elections this November.

Aldermen

continued from page 4

As a woman candidate, she is often asked how her husband feels about her campaign, and finds it interesting that men running for office are seldom asked if their wives approve. She thinks women are better suited to the nonpaying job of aldermen, not only because many men can't afford the time, but also because "women are generally more level-headed, dedicated, and find more innovative solutions."

Mike Papacoda

"Issues will be remedied, not by talk, but speedy action," says Mike Pappacoda, candidate on the Capra ticket, "when I am elected Alderman of the 11th Ward." Pappacoda is a man of his word --maybe that's why his neighbors got him to run. They know he took on the whole U.S. Government -- and won.

It happened this way. His son had served 8 months in Viet Nam (with 6 decorations) when President Nixon announced the withdrawal of his division. But after his withdrawal papers came, they transferred him to another combat division. He asked his father for help. Pappacoda wrote many times to the President and the State Department.

In one letter he said: "American boys are dying so some Saigon racketeers can grow fat on black market profits." In another letter, he asked whether he could replace his son. The president ignored his request. Local residents, however, flooded Pappacoda with phone calls. "I know that if I started a petition to end the war in Viet Nam, everyone in Fair Haven would sign it. Maybe if more fathers would speak out, we could get this mess over with and bring our boys home." After six months, he forced Washington to bring his son home.

Efforts like these to get what's right work in his neighborhood too. He persists until City Hall unclogs the sewers or removes the snow.

He wanted the city to stop playing favorites with public works and start coming through with what our taxes entitle us to.

He outlines areas of neglect in his ward -- housing, recreation, street safety -- and stresses the need for such improvements as bringing back the foot patrol. Many people, he finds, don't know who their alderman is now and Pappacoda wants all that to change.

Fred Wilson

20th ward alderman Fred Wilson represents people. A reform Democrat, he wants to abolish the Board of Finance. While the Board of Aldermen's hands are tied, the Board of Finance controls the purse strings and draws up that crucial document, the city budget. Except for one aldermanic member, it's all mayoral appointments. "It doesn't want to raise the necessary taxes because it is in cahoots with big business and big property interests who want to keep their taxes low."

Education is one of Wilson's primary interests. He says "only money--large amounts of it--will solve the education problem. I'm for Black Studies courses, but I also think a basic decent education is a must.

Wilson is a longtime supporter of people's needs in the housing and urban renewal field. Says Wilson: "Urban renewal is the biggest boondoggle in town--the bureaucrats are kept busy at fat salaries to manage the thing for big interests." He's fought hard on the Board against these interests and promises to keep up the fight. Redevelopment, he adds, "has designed houses to be instant slums. The real environmental fight as far as I'm concerned is against rats and roaches and lead paint poisoning. 25% of New Haven housing is substandard."

Wilson also has a strong interest in labor. Although many problems are yet unsolved, especially in the field of race relations, he says, "I'd like to see the day when working men would look at an unemployed worker or a striker on a picket line and say 'That's my brother,' black or white."

Write on

Robin Scored

Dear Editors:

This afternoon I took four kids to see The Long Wharf Theater's Children's Company production of "Robin Hood." At the end of the play I felt embarrassed, angry, and insulted.

I was not surprised that the male characters were depicted lying around while being waited on by females; that it was the men who fought, entered archery contests and did most of the talking. It was only slightly discomfiting when I saw the men boasting while the women danced and sang their praises. When my nine-year old girl asked me why the girls couldn't enter the contest for archery, it amused me to tell her that in those days women weren't allowed, but nowadays girls could shoot as much as boys.

Okay. Robin Hood is, after all, Robin Hood. What was degrading was the propagandistic lengths writer Elaine Berman and director Isaac Schambelan went to show women not only in an inferior light, but in an absurd one. Nowhere in the story I read as a child do I recall the Queen begging the King to accompany him on his pursuit of Robin Hood. Therefore I certainly don't recall his telling the Queen, "Stay at home where you belong. Don't you have a tapestry to finish?" When she reluctantly agrees, he gives her a kiss before leaving and says, "You're a smart woman."

As flagrant and superfluous as that is, there are worse moments to come! Robin is bragging how strong he is with a staff. One of his band, a woman, hesitatingly offers to fight with him. Brave one! How is she handled? Robin yawns, Robin twitches his behind in mock imitation of femininity, Robin shrugs, and makes faces. Then he gives her a good whack. When she complains that he didn't have to hit her so hard, all the men in the company shout, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen!"

As for me, I refuse to go to another Long Wharf production. I'm telling everyone I know to stay away as well. So far, I've had a surprising number of mothers agree with me.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Patricia Lowendorf

On Indian Past

October 12th is a day that the vast majority of people in this country have set aside to honor the man who "discovered America", Christopher Columbus.

I would like to disseminate some comments that a very small group of forgotten people will be making on Columbus Day. You see, I am an American, an Indian by a distinction not of my own choosing. I am not very happy with the acknowledgment of October 12th, and I do not think that I will stand in honor of this man whom my ancestors discovered hopelessly lost, in the year of the white man called 1492.

In the beginning, we shared our land and our food with you. We brought you through the rough winters and taught you how to survive. We trusted you and in return you gave us 389 broken treaties, the highest infant mortality, suicide, and tuberculosis rates, and diseases like diptheria, the common cold, and syphilis. You placed us on wastelands called reservations, starved us, and when we hopelessly fought back, killed us and called it a great victory. When we won a battle in self defense, it was a massacre and our men, women, and babies were hunted down and exterminated as a consequence. Remember Washita, Trail of Tears, and remember that even today we are still paying for it, and that the average Indian family earns $1500 per year. You held out your bibles before us, and stole our land behind our backs. You called us pagans for having no church but the wonders of the great spirit around us, and yet you kneel to a stone statue.

Our reservations that once nobody *wanted, you now want to dig up with great iron machines. The earth is my* mother, would I rip apart her breast? The treaties we put our marks on stated that they would hold strong and bind eternally, as long as the grass would grow green, the rivers run, and the sun shine. The grass is no longer growing, if hardly at all, not green, the rivers are so dirty and clogged they barely move, and the sun hardly visible due to the air pollution.

And back to you, Christopher Columbus, yes, you really started it all. Christopher, we contributed the entire continent of North America to your people, and what have you given us . . .? Many times I can only bow my head and wish that my ancestors would have greeted you on the shores with an immigration refusal paper. Migwitch. (*Thank you.*)

Billy Blackwell, *Ojibway*
Director, American Indian Movement
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Blackwell was recently in New Haven for a month of legal training with the Dixwell Legal Rights Association

Nixon Must Go

To the Editor:

It is with deep regret that I must disagree in part with two most intelligent people who wrote a letter in the October edition of **Modern Times**-- suggesting that voters not back the Democratic slate in the 1972 presidential elections.

Yes, I agree, that Mr. Sirabella's 'small vote confirms that he is seen by rank-and-file union members first and foremost as a Democratic party politician, not a labor leader. Exactly why he reversed his stand from the 1969 one is not clear to many of us. Perhaps in the near future he could explain it.

It is regrettable that in the 1970s we still have any type of party system to elect any of our representatives. This, above all, should immediately be changed so that concerned, dedicated individuals could be voted for instead of the money-backed, two-party, politically oriented ones.

However, until the above is accomplished, to vote against the Democrats in *the presidential election is a sure victory for Richard Nixon and his crew. Four* years of 'his' administration has certainly been more than the majority of Americans can tolerate or continue to live with.

Therefore, until the procedure of the election process has been revised, may we all be sensible and reasonable enough to back the candidates who can assure a Nixon defeat.

Fraternally,
Freda G. Dunn

Don't Squabble

To the Editors:

As a non-professional hospital worker, and one concerned about the unity of working people, I was very disturbed by several statements in your recent article on Para-professionals. A number of the para-professionals complained of having to do the 'same thing' or 'more dirty work' than teachers, but for much less pay. I completely agree that, like most of us who work for a living, the para-professionals deserve higher pay and better working conditions. So do the teachers. Then does it make sense for the para-professionals and the teachers to fight each other for slices of the pie? Or would it make more sense to fight for a larger pie?

As a hospital orderly, it makes no difference to me how much a nurse makes (except that she's probably underpaid too). What's important is how *I* can help organize for and win a decent standard of living for myself and other non-professionals. At the same time I know that our struggle will be stronger if we are joined by professionals fighting for better conditions for themselves. Of course those in power are desperately afraid of that sort of thing happening--their prize strategy is 'Divide and Rule'. And as long as they can keep blacks fighting with whites, policemen fighting with firemen, the Hill fighting with Fair Haven, or non-professionals fighting with professionals for a bigger piece of the pie, they'll be able to keep the whole pie as small as they please.

Gary Benenson

Students Denied Vote

by Chuck Kleinberg
Organizer, Student Voting Rights Case

The A.C.L.U. and the Yale Legal Services Organization have continued their fight for student voting rights by filing suit for contempt of court against New Haven election officials.

Federal District Court judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld will hear the suit for contempt of an injunction which he issued against the city of New Haven on Sept. 13. The injunction instructed New Haven city officials *not* to discriminate against students in the matter of voter registration.

The claims for contempt rest on the fact that, in spite of this injunction, over 60% of the students who attempted to register to vote for the much publicized Sept. 22 New Haven Democratic Mayoralty Primary had their applications rejected.

From the outset, the whole issue of student voting in New Haven has been embroiled in local politics. Black reform politician Henry Parker, recently defeated in a Democratic Mayoralty Primary by incumbent Mayor Bartholomew Guida, was expected to have been the beneficiary of the rejected student vote.

Members of New Haven liberal circles contend that regular Democrats on the New Haven Board for Admission of Electors disapproved student applications in an attempt to prevent a Parker victory. The truth of this contention remains academic, however, since Guida's margin of victory well exceeded the number of rejected student applicants.

Judge Blumenfeld, in his injunction, *set forth a list of thirteen questions to be used in determining an applicant's qualifications to become a voter.* According to the injunction, any applicant answering the questions in the specified manner "shall be presumed eligible to vote." After the issuance of the injunction, the city composed a 26 questionnaire, consisting of the judge's questions *and 13 additional questions of their own.* This questionnaire was given to every person attempting to register between Sept. 13 and Sept. 16 (the deadline for registration for the Sept. 22 primary).

The student plaintiffs claim that the 26 question questionnaire is an unwieldly addition to the registration process. They say that the questions which were added by the city to the judge's original questions, for example, "What state issued your driver's license?", are irrelevant to the question of voting eligibility.

The plaintiffs also claim that the questionnaire was not used by the city as a fair and objective test. Many students were rejected even though they answered the questions in the same manner as non-students who were accepted. Said Steven Wizner, Attorney for the students, *"50% of the students who satisfied the judge's presumption were rejected as compared with only 3% for non-students;* Moreover, 90% of the students who *failed* to satisfy the presumption were rejected as compared with 5% for non-students. *It's clear that failure to satisfy the judge's presumption only mitigated against students. Non-students were accepted no matter how they answered the questionnaire. If this isn't discrimination then I don't know what is."*

Questionnaire Discourages Voters

Observers at the Registrar's office on Sept. 16 estimate that from 10% to 20% of the 1400 persons who came down to register that day did not complete their registration because they refused to fill out the lengthy questionnaire or because they refused to wait on the long lines created by the addition of the time consuming questionnaire to the registration procedure. Paul North, the Democratic Registrar, was quoted by **New Haven Register** reporter William Tuttle as stating that the questionnaire was "disgraceful". Mr. North later denied in court that he had made any such statement.

U.N. Day observance on New Haven Green. In foreground, children from Mrs. Houston's 3d grade class at Davis St. School. Politicians in rear.

6th grade class from West Hill school play African instruments and sing a Liberian song.

M-T photo by Paul Gill

Yale Itchy; Plants Bugs On Students

by Andrew Irving
Modern Times Staff

May 27, 1971. A sunny day. Charlie Cuneo, a Yale sophomore, sits on the wall along College St., just outside Phelps Gate. One of Yale's campus policemen, dressed in imitation J. Press blazer, strolls by. He stops and asks Charlie, 'Would you have an aversion to planting a 'bug' in a student's room'?'

Charlie says he was pretty surprised by this. But the policeman, Robert Messercola, removed all doubts by explaining, "You know, placing a microphone in a student's room." Charlie told the cop that he wouldn't do this under any circumstances. Later in the day, another campus policeman, Jim McCarthy, also approached Charlie and asked if he had been spoken to. "They're really worried about what's going to happen tomorrow," he said, referring to his superiors at Yale.

May, 1971, was in the midst of the bitterly fought strike against Yale by members of Local 35. And "tomorrow" was the day that Yale planned to call for an injunction to stop picketing at the power plant. How were the students going to respond? The Yale administration apparently wanted to know. (As **Modern Times** readers will recall, many students responded by defying a court injunction, and 14 people were arrested on May 29.)

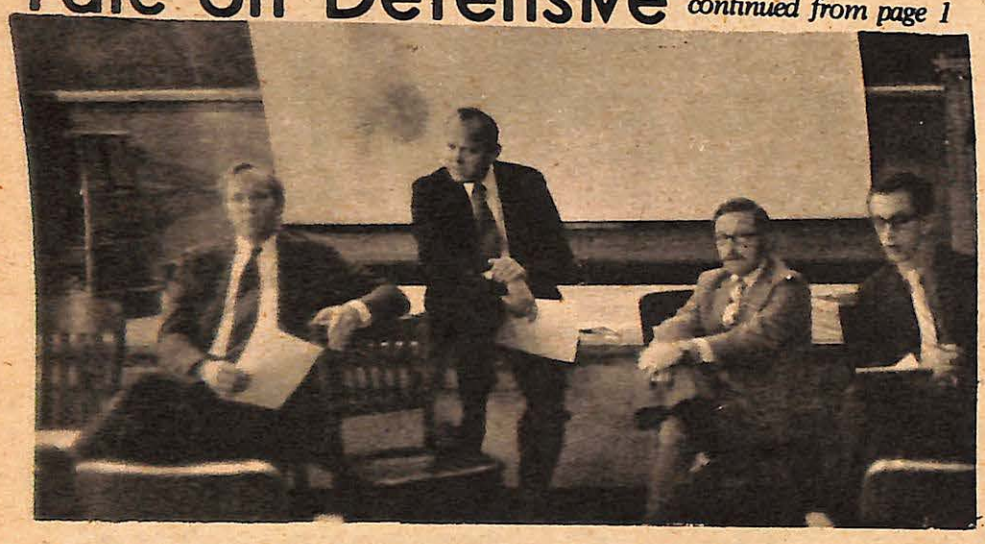
Why did the police pick Charlie? Apparently, if followed from the work he had done as a **Yale Daily News** reporter covering the course of student agitation around the strike. Campus police, who were also surveying the student agitators, struck up an acquaintance with Charlie and used to ask him for the names of students whom they had photographed as taking part in the demonstrations and picketing. Charlie always said he didn't know them, but apparently the police didn't get discouraged.

Charlie Cuneo is not the only one whom Yale has tried to "bug". Afro-American Studies professor Otis Cochran told the **Yale Daily News** that Yale policemen had told him twice that his room was bugged. Cochran apparently owes his status to his activities during Mayday, 1970, and his anti-Nixon testimony at the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

Whether it's Mayday or employees trying to organize, Yale seems pretty uptight these days. I wonder what they're going to do about YNFAC.

Yale on Defensive

continued from page 1



Yale "Team" runs anti-Union meeting: Lawyer Robert Snow, Kimball Williams, Personnel Director, Seymour Sokatch, Personnel Director at Medical Center, and Robert Tessier of the Payroll Office. (M.T photo by Arlyce Currie.)

designed to train them in mis-representing YNFAC to Yale employees.

The document includes "questions and answers." For example, to the question "What about my present benefits if the union wins - will they remain the same," Yale recommends its supervisors to respond "All salaries, benefits, and working conditions would be subjects for collective bargaining between Yale and Local 104, NCDWA."

In this way, Yale suggests that by building a union, employees may lose their present benefits such as a four week vacation and lack of time clocks. According to NLRB precedent, this is untrue, however. If YNFAC wins, the NLRB will instruct Yale to "bargain in good faith," which means that they start with present conditions and try to improve them.

Throughout the document Yale tries to suggest that the union is separate from the employees who have built it, insinuating that the union might use its dues or its political potential for purposes other than the purposes of union members.

The main tactic in the Yale attacks so far, according to Bill Berndtsen, a spokesman for YNFAC, has been their attempt to separate YNFAC from its Yale roots. Yale business managers, in their letters and in their meetings with employees have referred to YNFAC almost exclusively as "Local 104". This distortion of the official name of the union is from outside the university rather than rising out of needs from within the university.

YNFAC, created more than three years ago and recently affiliated with the National Council of Distributive Workers of America (NCDWA), forced Yale to NLRB hearings last summer. The university at these hearings agreed with YNFAC that the name that would appear on the ballot would be "Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee, Local 104, NCDWA."

YNFAC, which sprang from Yale's arbitrary parking policies in the fall of 1968, is run and governed by Yale clerical and technical employees. According to Berndtsen, Yale distorts the true origin of YNFAC in order to hide the real issues such as: low salaries, poor benefits, no job security, arbitrary hiring and firing, arbitrary transfer and promotion policies, etc.

History of Union Drive

The union drive at Yale has roots back to 1965 when a group of employees in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH) began circulating a petition for union recognition. When 20% of the employees had signed, Yale was notified and asked not to interfere with the union efforts. In four months Yale hired Leonard Marcus, a veteral of union busting at Inland Steel, to handle the new situation.

The EPH group was told by Yale that their unit was too small for bargaining. There were two unsuccessful union drives at Yale between 1966 and 1968---one by Local 35 and one by Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union.

The next effort was the beginning of YNFAC in 1968. Their first attempt was to have the EPH employees recognized as Unit I of YNFAC. The NLRB ruled that the unit was too small for an election and that YNFAC must submit university-wide petitions. In April, 1971, YNFAC formally affiliated with NCDWA and subsequently submitted petitions to the NLRB for a university-wide union recognition election which is to take place November 17, 1971.

Does Your Job Make You Sick?

An Occupational Health Project has been set up in New Haven by workers and students in the fields of health, science and law. The project is offering 3 services to area unions and working people:

1) A list of writings on occupational health and safety problems, on laws and on workers' rights which are guaranteed by law.
2) A questionnaire -- check list on health factors in the plant, on the job, etc.
3) Persons to serve as speakers and as medical, legal or environmental consultants.

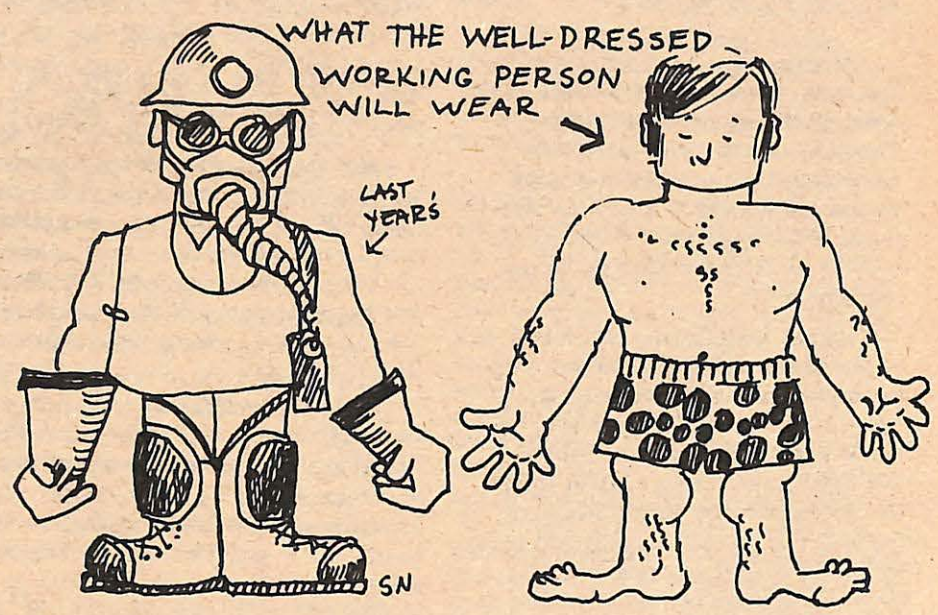
For more information, contact the Occupational Health Project, c/o New Haven Health Department, Health Education Division, 562-0151, ext. 320; or leave a message for the Project with Mike Charney, 1 South Street, New Haven 06510, 777-5388.

PANEL ON ROUTE 34

WYBC will feature a panel discussion on Route 34 on Wednesday, November 3, at 6 p.m.

New Law Better Way to Job Safety

by the Industrial Union Department (IUD) of the AFL-CIO



"Watch your step!" "Wear earplugs!" "Put on your hard hat and safety shoes!" Every worker needs to be aware of hazards on the job. But precautions taken by the individual alone seldom guarantee work without fear.

It is impossible for each worker to be responsible for his safety and health. He is exposed to threats to life and limb—difficult even for experts to understand—which are beyond his personal control. Only a massive, joint effort will result in an end to industrial growth subsidized by crippling injuries, sudden "accidental" death and the slow, painful process of job-related disease.

We live in the space age. Yet the workplace is still threatened by hazards we have known about for hundreds of years: lead poisoning, lung disease from dust, gases—such as chlorine—which are forbidden on the battlefield but accepted on the job. In addition to the old problems we have never solved are the new ones involving high speed, often automated processes that create high speed, often automated possibilities for injury and disease: lasers and microwaves, man-made radioactive materials and tens of thousands of chemicals that have never existed before. A new and far more dangerous environment has been created in the workplace, where eighty million Americans spend a third of their lives.

The Hard Statistics

Statistics tell part of the story: Each year 14,500 Americans are known to die because of their jobs. (What about the unrecorded cases?) Two million workers are known to be disabled annually through job-related accidents. (Many accidents are never reported.)

The cost is overwhelming: $1.5 billion in wages and over $8 billion in Gross National Product lost each year. The lost productivity is ten times greater than the loss from strikes.

The most important part of the story can never be told by statistics: the personal frustration, the deep heartache and anxiety, the fear of the future, the pain and anguish which afflict the injured worker and the injured worker's family.

An Act of Congress

After nearly two years of hard conflict in Congress, organized labor won for the first time a comprehensive job safety law: the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. It isn't the best possible law. But it's a good beginning and properly implemented it can mean work without fear for millions.

The declared congressional purpose of the act is **"to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources.**

The provisions of the law apply to four million places of business where 57 million workers are employed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and other American territories.

The Secretary of Labor has the legal responsibility to inspect and enforce job safety and health standards.

Each employer under the Act has the general duty to furnish each of his employees employment and places of employment free from recognized hazards causing, or likely to cause death or serious physical harm. The employer has the specific duty of complying with safety and health standards established under the Act. Each employee has the duty to comply with standards and rules that apply to his own actions and conduct.

Any employee who believes that a violation of a job safety or health standard has taken place may make a complaint to the Labor Department. The Act specifically protects the employee against harassment by his employer because he files such a complaint.

You are the Best Safety Inspector!

The man or woman on the job is in the best position to know if something is wrong which should be corrected.

Here's how to inspect your workplace:

***Know what you're working with—**

Do you come into contact with harmful or excessive dusts, fumes, gases, vapors, mists?
Are you exposed to molds, parasites or bacteria from animals or animal products?
Do you work with radioactive materials, microwaves, lasers? Drugs? Hormones?
Are some materials causing skin or other kinds of irritations?
Is there excessive noise? Dangerous machines?

You can request a hazard evaluation from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

***Know what precautions are required—**

Are there exhaust systems to carry off dangerous dusts, fumes, etc.?
Are there monitoring devices to detect leakage of dangerous gases?
Are safety instructions attached to electronic equipment? To all equipment which might involve radiation or similar risks?
Are safety devices inspected and tested regularly?
Are there shower and change-rooms for workers who handle dangerous substances?
Are sanitary facilities and lunch rooms clean and adequate?
Do you need special cleansers or protective lotions?
Should you wear gloves, an apron or other protective clothing? Ear plugs, goggles, a hard hat? A mask or respirator?
Are you examined periodically to make sure you can do your job without endangering your health?
Is there an occupational health physician or nurse on duty in your workplace?

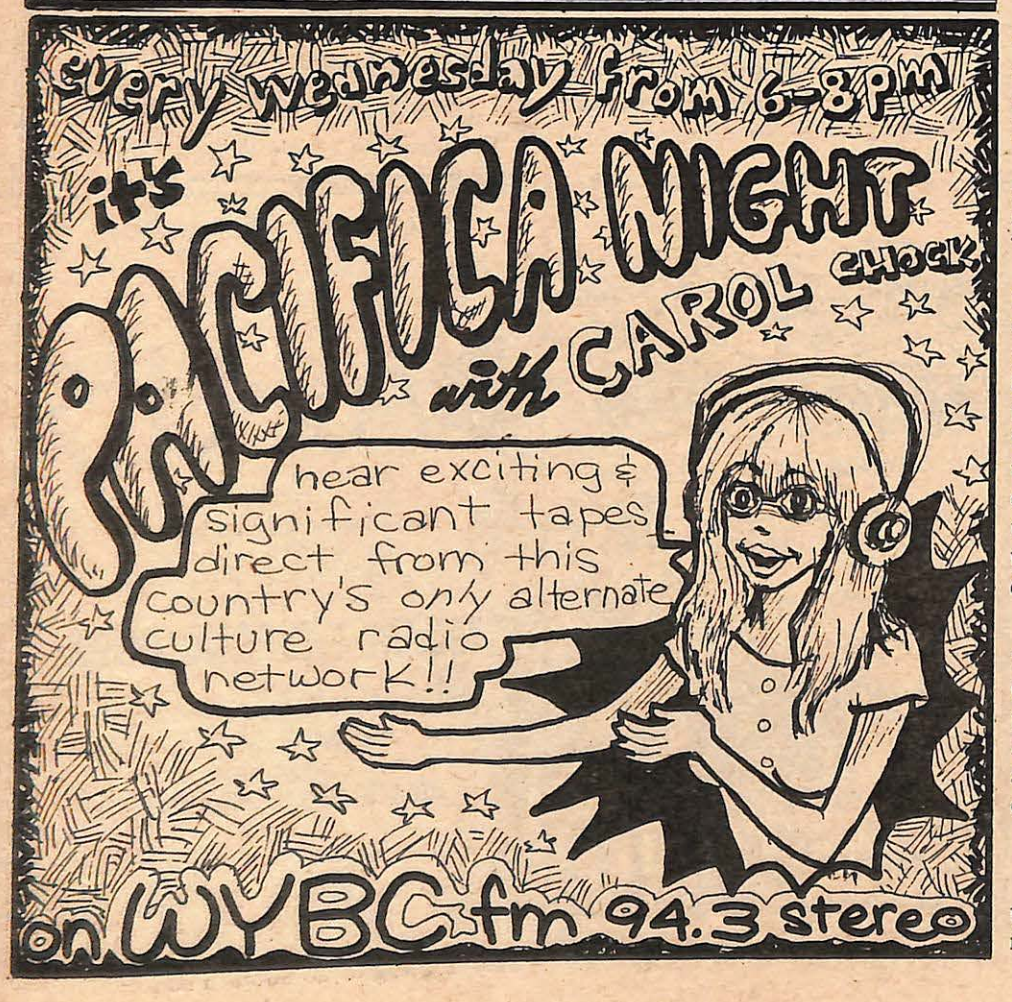
Is there a union representative assigned to see that the rules for maintaining a healthy workplace are enforced?

***Watch for unexpected hazards—**

Is your workplace clean and free of grease or clutter?
Are dangerous materials, such as solvents, in covered containers and used only with good ventilations?
Are there leaks, ventilation failure, or accidental spills?
Do you notice peculiar odors or other signs of danger? (Report them immediately!)

You have many rights and protections. If something is wrong, use the law! Convey your complaint to your local union officers or international union representative.

For further information, available to you free of charge, write to the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, 815 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Or contact the New Haven office of the Department of Labor at 746 Chapel Street. Telephone 776-2733.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Joan Capra: People Oriented

by Pat Lowendorf
Modern Times Staff

Modern Times *decided to offer its readers a chance for a closer look at the wives of the mayoralty candidates. Therefore, this reporter called Joan Capra and Kay Guida for interviews. We are still waiting to hear from Mrs. Guida and look forward to the possibility of an interview with her in the near future.*

I asked Joan Capra: 'When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?' She laughed: 'Oy! A missionary nurse!' She attained half of her goal before she married Paul Capra. She graduated from the then Grace-New Haven School of Nursing, and up until recently had been working part-time as a private-duty nurse. Now, however, she is probing and stretching the limits of the other half of her ambition by devoting a major portion of her time to helping her husband attain public office.

She plays an increasingly important role in her husband's campaign being in charge of several wards and the Puerto Rican faction, just for starters. She's not what you'd call a dynamic woman, nor does the term 'missionary zeal' seem appropriate. The impression she gives is that of an ordinary woman (as I walked into her house I overheard her on the phone telling someone she had just given the kids 'tomato soup and cheese') who, with great good sense has gathered all her intelligence and spirit into extraordinary proportions.

Class Prejudice

She agrees that most race prejudice tends to be class prejudice in disguise and enjoys getting lost in Proust prose, while rarely reading popular magazines. When speaking, she is neither verbose nor reticent. She admitted that she is 'more comfortable with a quiet person than a chatterer.' (Which doesn't explain her interest in Proust, does it?)

Her idea of a good time is 'an extra-good friend, a good drink, and a fireplace.' Her words are true: she doesn't even have a dining room -- just a bright kitchen (Joan-decorated) with warm and happy oranges and browns and yellows. Should I mention the chartreuse? (But it works!)

Joan (she prefers that to Mrs. Capra, always signing her own name rather than Paul's) looks for agreement rather than insistence, a trait that was revealed pointedly with her own children, Laurie, age 6, and Tina, age 3. Tina was overly desirous of her mother's attention, but rather than shunting the little girl to another room with negative statements, she smilingly said she could not play with Tina right then. The child insisted with that self-assurance only a three-year old has. Joan repeated that she could not play and explained why. Tina pushed. (Very normal three-year old.) Joan appeased and diverted Tina by suggesting something else Tina could do -- playdoh. No anger, no tears, no rejections.

People-Oriented

In thinking about what she wants for her children in personal terms, Joan said she wants them to be kind, and people-oriented, and hoped they would grow up to be more than just wives and mothers.

This brought us to Women's Liberation issues. She agreed that women are oppressed. It was difficult, however, for her to become specific about it. She characterized Paul as a 'reverse chauvinist' in that he had usually been the one to worry about housekeeping ruts. 'When dishes were to be done,' said Joan, 'Paul did them not to help out but because there were dishes to be done.'

She continued : 'Every woman who has two children and says 'I can't do anything' is copping out. We seek out a situation and use it as an excuse to stay in it.' I asked why this is so. She replied, 'Women, people, are afraid to move into something else.' 'Why?' I persisted. 'Because of inertia or fear.' I asked, 'What would there be to fear?' She wasn't sure. 'Could people be afraid of being judged or evaluated?' I pushed. She hesitated. She didn't like my supposition. At last she said, 'It's easier to stay at home.' 'What if people were not always judged and evaluated and compared and made to feel like failures?' I asked. She said, 'Then we'd have Camelot.' At this point, Joan's visionary abilities fail.

Joan is a slim, attractive, people-liking, woman and wife, whose ten-year marriage, she says (and I believe it) is based on 'respect.' At the beginning of her political involvement she registered as an independent. She is proud to be a Republican because she feels that in a Democratic town, it's no big deal to be elected, but if you're a Republican, in a Democratic town, you are definitely 'answerable to the people.' I admire that. Joan is ready for the fire. She listens well, thinks when she must, like a lot of us who never think of being answerable to ourselves.

Monthly Forums

The Angela Davis Bookstore launches its series of monthly forums Sunday, November 7, with Lillian Martinez of the New York Committee to Free Angela Davis. She will speak on "The Case of Angela Davis."

According to Joelle Dominski, manager of the store, "We chose the name of the store because Angela Davis is a scholar in Marxism-Leninism who is applying her philosophy to the struggle of today as a trade unionist, as one active in the Black Liberation struggle and as a Communist." Various writings by and about Professor Davis will be available on November 7 including her new book, "If They Come in the Morning."

The monthly forum was started to provide an opportunity for Marxist authors to discuss current topics concerning their books. The non-profit store features Marxist-Leninist books and has several main sections on current topics including Black liberation, labor history, women's history, and national liberation. There are a wide variety of magazines and newspapers on sale including African Communist, Freedomways, Labor Today, Women-A Journal of Liberation, Gramma and the Daily World.

"We opened the store because of the lack of availability in this area of books relating to social change" says Joelle Dominski. The store is fast becoming an information center. In addition to the Angela Davis Committee, many groups leave free literature there for distribution.

The public is invited to discuss developments in the Angela Davis case on November 7 at the store, 17 Broadway, second floor, from 3 to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be served.

Kimbro Payoff Revealed

by Elizabeth Henderson
Modern Times Staff

Those who wondered why former Black Panther Warren Kimbro turned state's evidence in the Panther trial found out last week. The news leaked that State's Attorney Markle had secretly gone before the Pardons Board and got them to cut Kimbro's life sentence to a minimum of four years. That means that he'll be eligible for parole soon, and with such powerful friends as the State's Attorney and the Governor backing him, it's a good bet that he'll get it.

Of course, at the trial Kimbro swore again and again that he hadn't been promised anything for his testimony. The defense attorneys attacked Kimbro's story claiming it was self serving and given only to get himself off the hook. The cut in sentence, unprecedented in recent Connecticut history, now proves they were right and Kimbro and the State's Attorney were concealing the facts of their prior agreement.

Call for Analyses of Women's History

Women's Liberation in New Haven - Where have we been? Where are we going?

New Haven Women's Liberation has been asked to contribute an article to **Women, A Journal of Liberation** for their forthcoming issue, "The Power and Scope of the Women's Movement." Women in New Haven have been talking about compiling a history of our activities. There will be a discussion at the Women's Center, 198 Elm Street, on Thursday, November 4, from 8 to 11 p.m.

Topics for discussion include origins of New Haven Women's Liberation, relationship to other movements, consciousness raising, actions and politics, problems, what brings individual women into the movement, reasons for women leaving the movement, reasons why an unstructured group like New Haven Women's Liberation has held together, gay-straight relations, where we feel we are going.

The article for the **Journal** will be written by women who come to the discussion, and all women are invited to participate.

Our center is at 198 Elm St. between High and College. All women in the New Haven area are welcome. We have an office and a comfortable lounge, with literature and toys for children. If you want to talk to someone about problems of health, pregnancy, divorce, studies, or child-care, please call or come in.

At our center you can find out what is happening with New Haven Women's Liberation. Our hours are: Mon. & Tues., 10 a.m. - 8 p. m.; Wed. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. - 12, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., 7 p.m.-9 p. m.; Fri., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Our phone is 436-0272, mailing address is 3438 Yale Station, New Haven, Ct. 06520.

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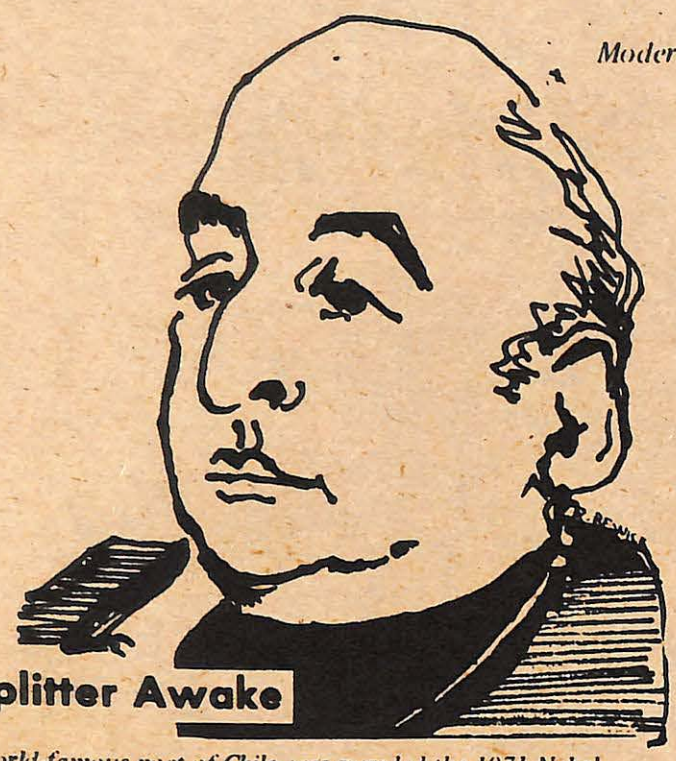

Let the Railsplitter Awake

Pablo Neruda, the world-famous poet of Chile, was awarded the 1971 Nobel Prize for poetry. He has been very active in movements for socialism, national independence and peace in Chile, Latin America and around the world. The recently-elected Allende government in Chile honored Neruda, now 67, by making him Chile's ambassador to France.

The lines below are taken from his long poem to the United States called, "Let the Railsplitter Awake," written in 1948.

Because of this, Arkansas boy, or rather
you, gilded youth of West Point, or better
you, Detroit mechanic, or instead
you, stevedore of old New Orleans, to all of you
I speak and say this: walk firmly,
open your ear to the vast human world,
it is not the elegant gentlemen of the State Department
nor the ferocious steel barons who are
speaking to you
but a poet from the extreme south of America
son of a railroad worker from Patagonia,
American as the Andean air,
today a fugitive from a country wherein
prison, torture, and anguish rule,
while copper and oil gradually transform
into gold for the foreign lords.
You are not the idol
who carries gold in one hand
and in his other the Bomb.
You are
what I am, what I was, what we must
protect, the fraternal sub-soil
of pure America, the simple
men of streets and roadways.
My brother Juan sells shoes
just like your brother John,
my sister Juana peels potatoes
just like your cousin Jane,
and my blood is of miners and sailors
like your blood, Peter.
You and I will open doors
so that the Ural air will blow
through the curtains of ink,
you and I will tell the infuriated:
"My dear fellow, just this far and no further,"
for beyond, the land belongs to us
and no whistle of machine-gun will be heard there,
but a song, another song, and another.

"When We Dead Awaken"

Ibsen's Portrait Of The Artist

by Naomi Resnick

The stage is dark, and whispery quiet. The scenery is made up of four of five large crude pieces, looking very much as if they were were sculpted by a small child from grey modeling clay. Above the stage flutters a soft white cloth, resembling a large sheet. This is held up at various points around the circumference of the stage. Slightly below it, on a balcony, sits, almost hidden, a small ensamble of string musicians. They begin to play a Beethoven quartet, and When We Dead Awaken," (the last play written by Henrik Ibsen) comes to life

The play is visually black and white, and intense with symbolism. It deals mainly with a sculptor, Arnold Rubek, obviously meant to be Ibsen himself. Rubek, when we meet him, is an elderly artist, who is looking back at his life, and realizing how empty and boring it has been. He has created only one masterpiece, a statue entitled "Resurrection Day" which was inspired by Irene, the only woman he ever loved, who left him as soon as he had finished the piece.

He gets to thinking what life could have been and regrets all the empty years he spent traveling with his young but boring wife, and doing commissioned busts of wealthy people,and a bit of self-hatred slips in here.

While on vacation, from nothing actually, his wife meets a squire for whom she is ready to leave Rubek. He also chances to meet someone - Irene, and looks to her to awaken him from his miserable life.

We first see Irene as a tall woman, dressed in stark white robes, being followed by a mysterious nun, dressed in black. Irene has apparently spent many years in and out of mental hospitals, and fears being put in a straight-jacket by the nun. Kubek, with nothing left to hold on to, tries to believe that if he and Irene were to get back together again, both could awaken from their dead lives. But Irene tells him that her youth and soul, the key to Rubek's creativity, are in his statue (which she calls her baby, their "only child") and when he took those from her , she dies. Over the years, Rubek had changed and tampered with the statue until now it is just a sad memory of what it once was. Rubek's key is lost forever and can never open any more doors for him or anyone else. As an act to further finalize the death of Rubek's life, Ibsen; has him and Irene perish together in an avalanche high atop a mountain peak.

Strange Contrast

There is a stange, but very fitting contrast on stage of the sparse,straightforward bare necessities of the scenery, and the far reaching, obscure interpretations of the play itself. The lighting, and shadows on that white cloth are the only things which really change on stage, and are something magical to behold. They take us from the inside of a building to a scene on the mountains with sunlight coming through the tall lofty trees, which despite the lack of color seemed to be a lush green, and in full bloom. Then to a violent snow storm on the mountain top, and finally the avalanche. When the cloth which was the avalanche itself dropped you could almost see the white *snow settling slowly and gently, giving the* stage a deathly quiet.

The acting of just about all the characters was superb, especially Nancy Wickwire, who played Irene. Her portrayal was beautifully done, and all the poetry Ibsen created in her seemed all the more passionate and real.

The only part of the play which could even be called slightly disappointing was David Hurst's portrayal of Rubek, and then it was only in one or two scenes. For a man who thought that he had finally found a way out of his barren life, Hurst could have been a bit more excited about it. His Rubek sat too much, and seemed frustratingly lazy and uninterested in what his life could be. Yet this hardly ruined Rubek as a character, and the play, to me, was a total success.

"When We Dead Awaken" is being put on at the Yale Repertory Theater, at the corners of York and Chapel Streets. It can be seen at various times during October, November, and December. For information on tickets, call 562-9953.

Classified

The Independent Teacher Learning Center needs furnishings—would appreciate DONATIONS of lamps, chairs, *sofas, tables, bookshelves, lumber, kitchen and office supplies, drapes,* rugs, vacuum cleaner, tools and carpentry equipment. Call 624-6515.

WANTED: Used typewriter in good condition to be donated to inner city classroom. Call Craig, 397-3670.

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Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Sunrise Luncheonette, Dixwell Plaza; Lake V[illegible]y, Dixwell-Lake Pl.; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster; FH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Cent[illegible] Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Nu-Way Market, Howe-Chapel; Howe Food Shop, cor. Edgewood; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Gilbert Pharmacy, cor. Greenwood; Esquire Restaurant, Chapel-Orchard; The Book Shop, Chapel-Howe.

Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Superbooks, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gal[illegible] York near Chapel; Thomas' Market, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthro[illegible] LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New Y[illegible] Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.

We're Sticking With the Union...

The October issue of the YNFAC Newsletter contains a four-page photo-story of workers at Yale and their reasons for joining the union. The following is a reprint of some of the interviews.

Arlene Resnick School of Medicine

Although in general many of the working conditions are good on a one to one basis, it is really the institution that makes the personnel policies --wages, vacation policy, etc. and not the faculty member or doctor you are working for. A union will help stabilize the conditions and extend the good things to everyone.

Ulrike Rainer History of Science and Medicine

I want more money. I have worked at Yale for five years and I'm pleased with my job but I need more money. Yale gives us this big vacation but not enough money to go anywhere on it. Anyway, the vacation is no loss for the University -- no one is here all summer and there's not much to do anyway.

Barbara Atkins and Audrey Larkin Office of Professional Services

The biggest reason for our joining and for most of the people in our office joining is for more wages. If the union wins we know we will negotiate a decent raise – a cost-of-living raise -- each year, not this 4% farce which amounts to enough to pay for coffee every day.

Nancy Reed Forestry Library

Like many other Yale employees, I enjoy working in a university atmosphere in which I come into contact with new and interesting people and ideas. While I would like a higher salary and more extensive benefits, I did not join the union for these reasons. During the past year I have felt personally and learned that many other employees *also felt a sense of helplessness in dealing with Yale. The University simply does not often recognize the worth of an individual employee* to say much if anything about his working conditions. I believe a union will encourage Yale to be more responsive to the needs of all employees. A union offers the employee an opportunity to have his concerns acted upon. I'd like to feel that someone was willing to go to bat for me-- I think the union will do so effectively.

Lissa Weller Drama School

I joined YNFAC so I could eventually have some power over my working day. I have had some bad situations at work and I went through Yale's grievance procedure to correct the problems; that's when I realized nothing could be done through this procedure the way it is set up. An individual has no power over her working life.

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